



wesley impact!

news

Spring 2021

THANK YOU

Your help means the world to people like Jonny*



With news coming out daily of new virus infections and lockdowns, many people in our communities struggle with their mental health triggered by isolation, health fears, job losses and financial difficulties. Young people have been hit hardest, with one study finding a worrying 74 per cent of young people reported worse mental health since the outbreak of COVID-19.¹

At this very challenging time for Australia and NSW in particular, more people facing emotional upheaval and crisis are turning to Wesley Mission. The good news is that your generosity can help someone to begin their journey towards recovery and a new life.

Thanks to you and our other kind-hearted supporters, we can journey alongside people like Jonny, who

first came into contact with us when he became homeless in high school. He was just 15 years old and all alone. We helped him find safe and stable accommodation to start healing from mental health issues and the trauma he'd experienced because of family conflict.

Jonny sent us an update on how he's going, as he prepares to move into his first private rental with a friend, with the help from his Wesley Mission case worker. It's a huge step and an exciting achievement for any young person, especially for one who has faced the challenges Jonny has.

He says he's looking forward to greater stability and making his new place feel like home. As you'd imagine, he's also feeling very grateful.

"Looking back and realising how far I've come, I couldn't be prouder of where I am today or more thankful for all the people and supports that have helped me achieve everything I have," Jonny says.

"I am also looking forward to and working towards purchasing my own home one day. I'm thankful to Wesley Mission for helping me build the foundations for that to be a possibility."

Thank you for your compassion and care. Please consider a donation today to help people experiencing distress or challenges with their mental health at this difficult time.

*Photo changed for privacy

¹Headspace "COVID Client Impact Report" August 2020

Lisa's on her way

Lisa was 15 when she was linked to a foster family by Wesley Mission. "I was an emergency case," Lisa remembers. "I went to live with my dad when I was five and my mum died of cancer, but he had a brain injury. He tried his best but he wasn't able to properly care for my big sister and I."

But the transition from the home Lisa knew was still very difficult. As she drove with her case worker to meet her new foster mother, Pamela, her heart raced with fear at the thought she was going to live with a total stranger. "And I had anger management issues as anyone with trauma does, so it was rocky at first," she says. But gradually, Lisa began seeing the positives and requested to be placed with her foster mum permanently.

"I was actually getting fed properly," says Lisa. "I realised it was actually a stable environment."

With the care of her foster mum and extra help with her education, Lisa improved her marks and successfully completed Year 12. She was able to get into a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Canberra. A scholarship from Wesley Mission helped Lisa support herself in a different city while she studied. This April, her graduation from university was an incredibly proud day for Lisa and Pamela, who Lisa now considers family.

Now, Lisa is living in Wesley Mission community accommodation for foster children while she finds her feet. She also volunteers with our fundraising team and gains valuable work experience from it. Lisa hopes to get her foot in the door of a public service career and be financially independent. "I thought I might be dead by the time I was 20, and I can't believe where I am now," she says. "The help I've had from Wesley Mission means a lot."



Wesley Foster Care provides secure, safe and loving environments for vulnerable children to help them reach their full potential. If you'd like information about fostering a child, call us on 1300 DALMAR (1300 325 627) or email us on dalmar@wesleymission.org.au

Test your knowledge! Take our quiz

Answers at the bottom of page 3

1. Which constellation is depicted on the Australian flag?
2. Which former Australian Prime Minister is a Wesley Mission patron?
3. Who was 'The Crocodile Hunter'?
4. Which architect designed the Sydney Opera House?
5. How many states are there in Australia?
6. Can you name the person who founded Lifeline?
7. Where would you find the Big Pineapple?





Honouring Alfreda Henry

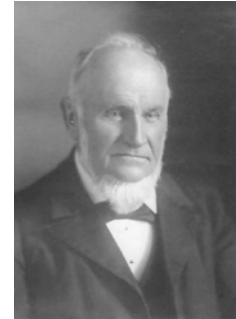
When Alfreda passed away, aged 91, in January, her family invited all those who loved her to give a donation to Wesley Mission in lieu of flowers, in honour of her life of service to others and her special connection to Wesley Mission.

Alfreda was the great-granddaughter of Ebenezer Vickery, the politician and philanthropist who in 1906 purchased the Lyceum Theatre and generously presented it to the Methodist Church. The site is now our head office and church in Pitt Street, Sydney.

“Our family has a strong Methodist heritage going back many generations,” says Alfreda’s daughter Cathy. “We had and still do have a

heart for mission and the gospel. Mum was a warm, friendly, caring woman for whom prayer and service to others was a way of life. She has been a wonderful example to us. So when it came to mum’s service, it just felt right to support an organisation that had meant a lot to her and her family. She’d be thrilled about the gift going to Wesley Mission.”

Alfreda also generously left a gift in her Will to Wesley Dalmar, which provides homes for children and young people in foster care. We thank Alfreda’s family and loved ones for their generosity. We’re extremely grateful to everyone who has given a memorial donation that made a difference.



Alfreda’s great-grandfather, The Hon Ebenezer Vickery, and the building he donated.

Flowers are the traditional way we express sympathy. But today, more people are choosing to make a memorial donation. This is a unique and caring way to honour the life of a loved one who has passed, while helping to support more than 160,000 people in need who turn to Wesley Mission each year.

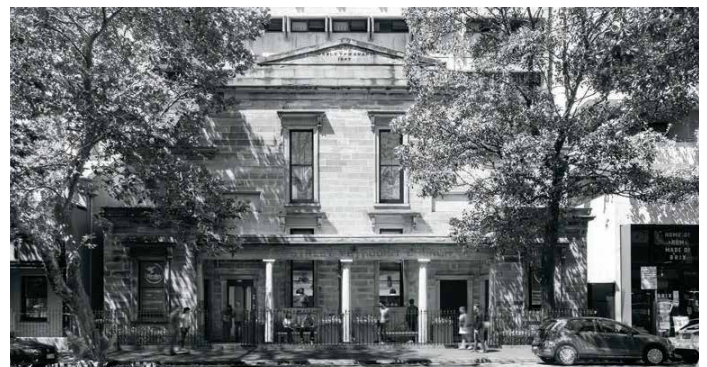
You can make a donation in memory of your loved one or find out how to organise a collection for your loved one online at wesleymission.org.au/inmemory. Alternatively get in touch on 1800 021 821 or fundraising@wesleymission.org.au

Wesley Edward Eagar Centre opens its doors again, thanks to you

Thanks to our generous supporters, the refurbishment of our Wesley Edward Eagar Centre crisis accommodation is now complete. The service re-opened just as a COVID-19 outbreak spread across Sydney. Within days, the 40 rooms were filled with men and women experiencing homelessness.

The centre features lockable private rooms, each with an ensuite and storage, communicating a sense of dignity and worth. A dedicated space for women provides an area where they can feel safe, as many have survived family and/or sexual violence. People can also access a range of support on-site provided by Wesley Mission and our partners, helping them break the cycle of homelessness.

The bright, modern restoration has created a warm and welcoming atmosphere. One gentleman cried with gratitude because, as he said, “I never thought I would have the chance to sleep in a place so nice again.”



Says Rob Seaton, Operations Manager of our homeless services, “If people can feel their shoulders relax and their eyes raised and their spirits lifted, then we are off to a good start.”

Thank you for supporting our Wesley Edward Eagar Centre Appeal, giving hope and transforming lives.

Liam's skipping through September

Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland volunteer Liam started skipping to stay fit at home during the recent Sydney lockdown when he came up with the idea to launch a new event raising funds and awareness for Lifeline Sydney & Sutherland. Now he's challenged himself to skip 3,318 times each day for 30 days throughout September.

"I chose 3,318 because this is the number of people who lost their lives to suicide in 2019," says Liam. "Lifeline helps by offering support, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to people in their darkest times. The money I raise will support training for more volunteer telephone crisis supporters to answer these lifesaving calls."



You can join Liam or donate to his amazing efforts on his fundraising page:
wesleymission.grassrootz.com/our-fundraisers/skipping-through-september

Follow him on Instagram
[@SkippingThroughSeptember](https://www.instagram.com/SkippingThroughSeptember) to see his progress!

Let's talk about Mental Health Month



October is Mental Health Month in NSW, encouraging us all to talk and think about our mental health and wellbeing. With COVID-19 increasing distress for many, we're asking you and our other caring supporters to help by raising money and awareness for Wesley Mission's mental health services from 1 to 31 October.

There's something for everyone:

Move for mental health – take on a virtual run, trek, cycle or walk in a safe space over the month, improving your own wellbeing while you help others needing support.

Hold a 'Wellness' virtual morning tea – catch up safely with friends and family to raise funds for people in crisis.

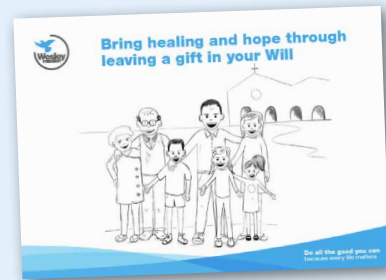
Create your own fundraiser – ask your loved ones to support you with any challenge, whether it's conquering a 1,000 piece puzzle or completing a patchwork masterpiece during October.

To learn more about fundraising for Wesley Mission, contact Francesca Cinelli, Fundraising Manager, on (02) 9263 5524, or Francesca.Cinelli@wesleymission.org.au
Set up your fundraising page to share with your networks at wesleymission.grassrootz.com/our-fundraisers

Will you make a lasting impact?

Can you imagine leaving a gift that changes lives beyond your lifetime? Lancelot Iredale didn't know this would be his legacy when he built a chapel in 1847 and left it to Wesley Mission in his Will, but it's now part of our Wesley Edward Eagar Centre crisis accommodation and has helped countless men and women over the years.

Please consider following in Lancelot's footsteps by leaving Wesley Mission a gift in your Will. These special gifts give future generations hope, make sure our vital services continue to expand and that our doors are always open to people in desperate need.



To request a **FREE** copy of our **Wills Guide** and find out more about leaving a gift in your Will, please contact **Steve Burfield (Planned Giving Manager)** on (02) 9263 5561 or via email Stephen.burfield@wesleymission.org.au

Yes, I'll give practical support to people in desperate need.

Please accept my gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 My choice \$ _____

My contact details:

Title: _____ Name: _____

Surname: _____

Street address: _____

Suburb: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

My date of birth is: ___ / ___ / ___

We'd love to send you a birthday message!

Can you give monthly?

Yes, I'd like to change lives every day with a monthly gift of \$ _____

- Please debit the credit card below.
 Please contact me to set up direct debit.

My payment details:

- Cheque/money order made out to Wesley Mission OR
 Please debit my credit card: Visa MasterCard Amex

Card No.: _____ Expiry: ____ / ____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

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Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

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WFAG298



CODE

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